



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

September 27, 2007

The Honorable Chuck Conner
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
Second Floor
14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Conner:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the United States Secretary of Agriculture. I look forward to working with you. I write to request that you designate the entire Commonwealth of Virginia as a natural disaster area due to drought and high temperatures for crop year 2007. This year I have received requests from 61 Virginia counties soliciting my assistance in obtaining primary disaster designation due to drought conditions throughout the state. As a result, I have requested that 58 Virginia counties receive secretarial disaster designation based on official loss assessment reports for those localities.

Since it is now time for crops to be harvested and there has been no significant amount of rainfall in the state for almost three weeks, the USDA Virginia Food and Agriculture Council's Emergency Program Committee has recommended that I request primary disaster designation for the remaining counties and independent cities including, but not limited to, those listed below:

Accomack	Amherst	Arlington	Bath	Botetourt	Buchanan
Buckingham	Charles City	Charlotte	Chesapeake	Chesterfield	Dickenson
Fairfax	Fluvanna	Gloucester	Goochland	Grayson	Henrico
Highland	Carroll	James City	King William	Lunenburg	Mathews
York	Middlesex	Nelson	New Kent	Northampton	Patrick
Powhatan	Prince Edward	Prince George	Prince William	Pulaski	Rockingham
Suffolk	Sussex	Virginia Beach	Wythe		

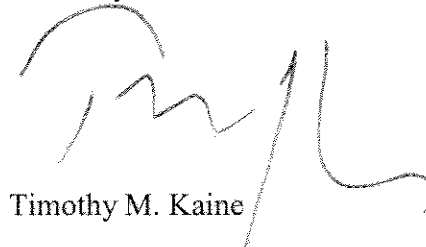
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You should also be aware that in addition to the documented drought conditions in Virginia, farmers have been confronted with other circumstances that have exacerbated their production losses. A severe late spring freeze set back plant growth in both our cropping and grazing areas. Prolonged periods of above average temperatures have also had a detrimental effect on production. In many cases producers are selling off their herds early because of the lack of grazing, pasture, hay and water for irrigation.

The livelihood of many of our producers will depend on accessing FSA low interest loans and any other assistance programs that might be available. Any federal assistance that would help reduce the financial hardship experienced by farmers in these localities would be greatly appreciated.

Your prompt review and approval of this request is absolutely critical and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your cooperation concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Timothy M. Kaine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy M. Kaine

TMK:gmb

c: The Virginia Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
The Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety
Mr. Todd Haymore, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Mr. Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator, Department of Emergency Management
Ms. Jacquelin P. Easter, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency